

## **Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration**

### **MEMBERSHIP BALANCE PLAN**

#### **1. Committee's Official Designation**

The committee shall be known as the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee (GIAC), hereafter referred to as the Advisory Committee or the GIAC.

#### **2. Authority**

The Advisory Committee was established on September 29, 1981, Under Section 21 of the United States Grain Standards (Act), as amended.

The Secretary of Agriculture has renewed the GIAC charter approximately every 2 years, with the last renewal on January 7, 2015.

#### **3. Objectives and Scope of Activities**

The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to provide advice to the Secretary with respect to the implementation of the Act and the Reorganization Act of 1994. The renewal of this Advisory Committee is in the public interest in connection with duties and responsibilities of GIPSA mandated by law to facilitate the marketing of grain. The Advisory Committee serves an essential function.

#### **4. Points of View Needed for the Committee**

The Advisory Committee will consist of 15 members to be appointed by the Secretary. Members will be selected from and will represent the interests of all segments of the grain producing, processing, storing, merchandising, consuming, and exporting industries, including grain inspection and weighing agencies and scientists with expertise in research related to the policies in Section 2 of the Act.

#### **5. Other Balance Factors**

GIPSA recommends appointments by reviewing their applications to ensure balance of industry, diversity, and geographic areas.

Equal opportunity practices in accordance with USDA policies will be followed in all appointments to the Advisory Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by

USDA, membership will include to the extent possible, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women and persons with disabilities.

The USDA prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

#### 6. Quorum Requirements

The Advisory Committee requires two-thirds of its members to be present in order to hold a meeting.

#### 7. Candidate Identification Process

The Advisory Committee is comprised of 15 members who serve 3-year terms with approximately a third of the Advisory Committee replaced annually.

GIPSA reviews all nominees. After reviewing all nominations, meetings are held with the GIPSA Administrator, the GIPSA Deputy Administrator for Grain, and the Advisory Committee Designated Federal Officer to discuss the nominees.

Once candidates have been identified, their names and background data are submitted to the USDA White House Liaison's office for vetting. The vetting process includes a background check to determine if any of the candidates have a conflict of interest that would prohibit them from serving on the Advisory Committee due to criminal or ethical violations.

#### 8. Subcommittee Balance

A balance plan would be the same for the parent Advisory Committee. At this time the Advisory Committee does not have any subcommittees.

#### 9. Other

Nothing to report.

#### 10. Date Prepared or Updated

June 21, 2016